

CLAIMS:

1. A suturing device comprising:
a housing;
a needle movable with respect to the housing, the needle being attached to a length of suture; and
a suture cutting blade positioned on the device such that when the needle is withdrawn from the device, the suture can be drawn across the blade to sever the suture.
2. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the blade is mounted on the housing.
3. The suturing device of claim 2, wherein the housing has a distal end and a proximal end, and the blade is positioned near the distal end.
4. The suturing device of claim 2, wherein the housing has a distal end and a proximal end, the housing defines an opening near the distal end, and the blade is positioned in the opening.
5. The suturing device of claim 3, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.
6. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing has a distal end and a proximal end, and the blade is positioned near the proximal end of the housing.
7. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the blade is mounted on the outside of the housing.
8. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing is a hollow body having a proximal opening and an inner surface, and the blade is mounted on the inner surface.
9. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a finger grip and the blade is mounted on the finger grip.

10. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises a movable handle, and the blade is mounted on the movable handle.
11. The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the needle has a distal end and the suture is attached to the distal end of the needle.
12. A suturing device comprising:
 - a housing having a proximal end and a distal end;
 - a suture cutting blade positioned on the housing;
 - an elongate shaft extending from the distal end of the housing, the elongate shaft having a distal end region;
 - a needle actuation handle movable through the proximal end of the housing;
 - a needle extending from the needle actuation handle, through the housing and further through the shaft; and
 - a suture carried by the device, wherein a portion of the suture is positioned near the distal end region of the shaft such that the needle pulls the suture proximally to position the suture through tissue.
13. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is positioned near the distal end of the housing.
14. The suturing device of claim 13, wherein the needle pulls the suture through the proximal end of the housing.
15. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the housing defines an opening near the distal end, and the blade is positioned in the opening.
16. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.

17. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is positioned near the proximal end of the housing.
18. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is mounted on the outside of the housing.
19. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the housing is a hollow body having a proximal opening and an inner surface, and the blade is mounted on the inner surface.
20. The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the housing includes a finger grip and the blade is mounted on the finger grip.
21. A method of suturing tissue comprising:
 - providing a device including a housing having a distal end and a proximal end, the housing carrying a suture, the device further including a needle movable with respect to the housing, the device further including a suture cutting blade positioned on the housing;
 - advancing the needle distally to penetrate the tissue and position the suture through the tissue;
 - attaching the suture to the needle;
 - withdrawing the needle proximally through the proximal end of the housing; and
 - drawing the suture across the suture cutting blade to separate the needle from the suture.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising positioning the suture across an opening in a wall of a blood vessel to close the opening.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein advancing the needle distally to penetrate the tissue and position the suture through the tissue includes advancing the suture and the needle percutaneously through subcutaneous tissue to a blood vessel access site.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the blade is positioned near the distal end of the housing.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein the housing defines an opening near the distal end, and the blade is positioned in the opening.
26. The method of claim 21, wherein the blade is positioned near the proximal end of the housing.
27. The method of claim 21, wherein the blade is mounted on the outside of the housing.
28. The method of claim 21, wherein the housing is a hollow body having a proximal opening and an inner surface, and the blade is mounted on the inner surface.
29. The method of claim 21, wherein the housing includes a finger grip and the blade is mounted on the finger grip.